

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF APHIDIDAE ON ALOE
(Homoptera)

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A curious aphid which was collected on *Aloe aristata* in a nursery at Glendale, California by members of the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, Los Angeles, California, was sent to the writer for identification. The specimens could not be determined either to genus or species and a thorough check of literature failed to show that such a species had ever been previously described or named. As this aphid attacks ornamental plants of economic importance it seems advisable to describe and name it so that it may be properly referred to and recorded.

Aloephagus Essig, new genus

Apterous form. Body regulary oval, beset with relatively few short stiff hairs or spines and with irregular and circular groups of glands somewhat similar to those in *Eriosoma*; small rounded tubercles—1 pair on the prothorax and 6 pairs on the abdomen. Eyes small, 3-faceted. Antennae 5-segmented. Rostrum long and slender. Legs short. Cauda triangular.

Type species: *Aloephagus myersi* Essig.

Aloephagus myersi Essig, new species

Apterous viviparous parthenogenetic female (fig. 1). General characteristics as indicated above for the genus *Aloephagus*. Body dull-green or pruinose with dusky markings as illustrated; sparsely covered with short spines arranged in transverse rows on the abdominal segments; with groups of glandular areas; rounded lateral tubercles on the prothorax, and six obvious abdominal segments. Antennae 5-segmented, and with few hairs nearly as long as the width of the segments; III only slightly longer than V and with the unguis nearly twice as long as the base. Eyes small and 3-faceted; rostrum long, extending nearly to the tip of the abdomen, slender with apical segments somewhat swollen with few short hairs. Cauda nearly the form of an isosceles triangle with many short, stout curving hairs.

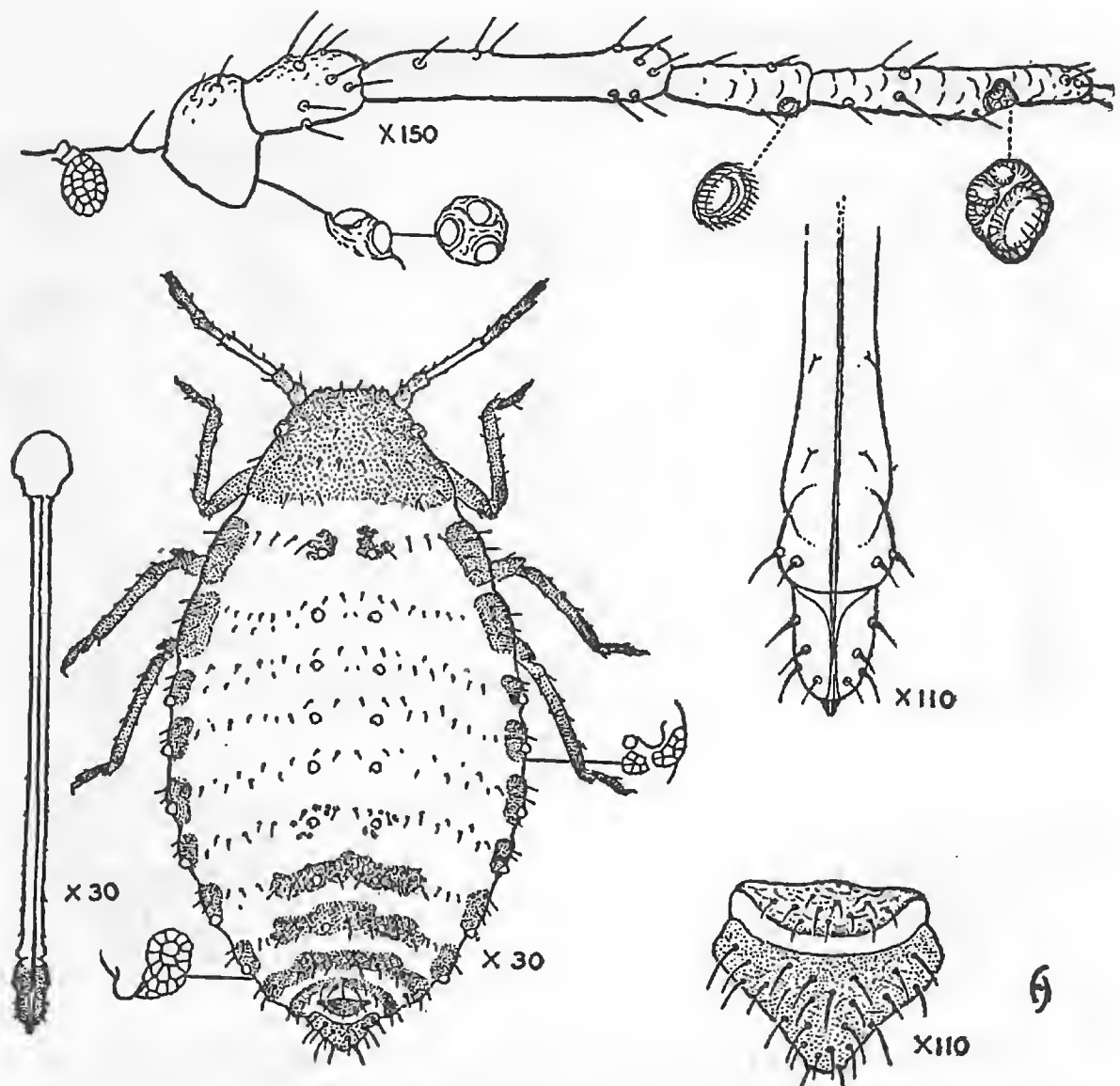


Fig. 1. *Aloephagus myersi* Essig, n. sp. Apterous form and important characters including portion of front of head showing wax glands, antenna, faceted eye (side and front), and rostrum. (Drawing by Frieda Abernathy).

Host plants and distribution in California. Holotype: WEST LOS ANGELES, October 28, 1939, on *Aloe* sp., nursery, F. R. Platt, collector (first report). On *Haworthia rugosa* in quarantine from South Africa, at Inglewood, December 4, 1940, 2 specimens; F. R. Platt, collector. On *Haworthia* sp., Santa Monica, April 25, 1944, 1 specimen; J. Caldwell, collector. On *Haworthia* sp., nursery, Glendale, April 7, 1947, 4 immature specimens; M. Wagner, collector. On *Aloe aristata*, nursery, Glendale, October 3, 1947, 24 specimens; L. E. Myers, collector. These specimens were fresh and covered with white pruinose wax. On *Aloe variegata*, Inglewood, November 12, 1948, 3 specimens; A. D. Phelps, col-

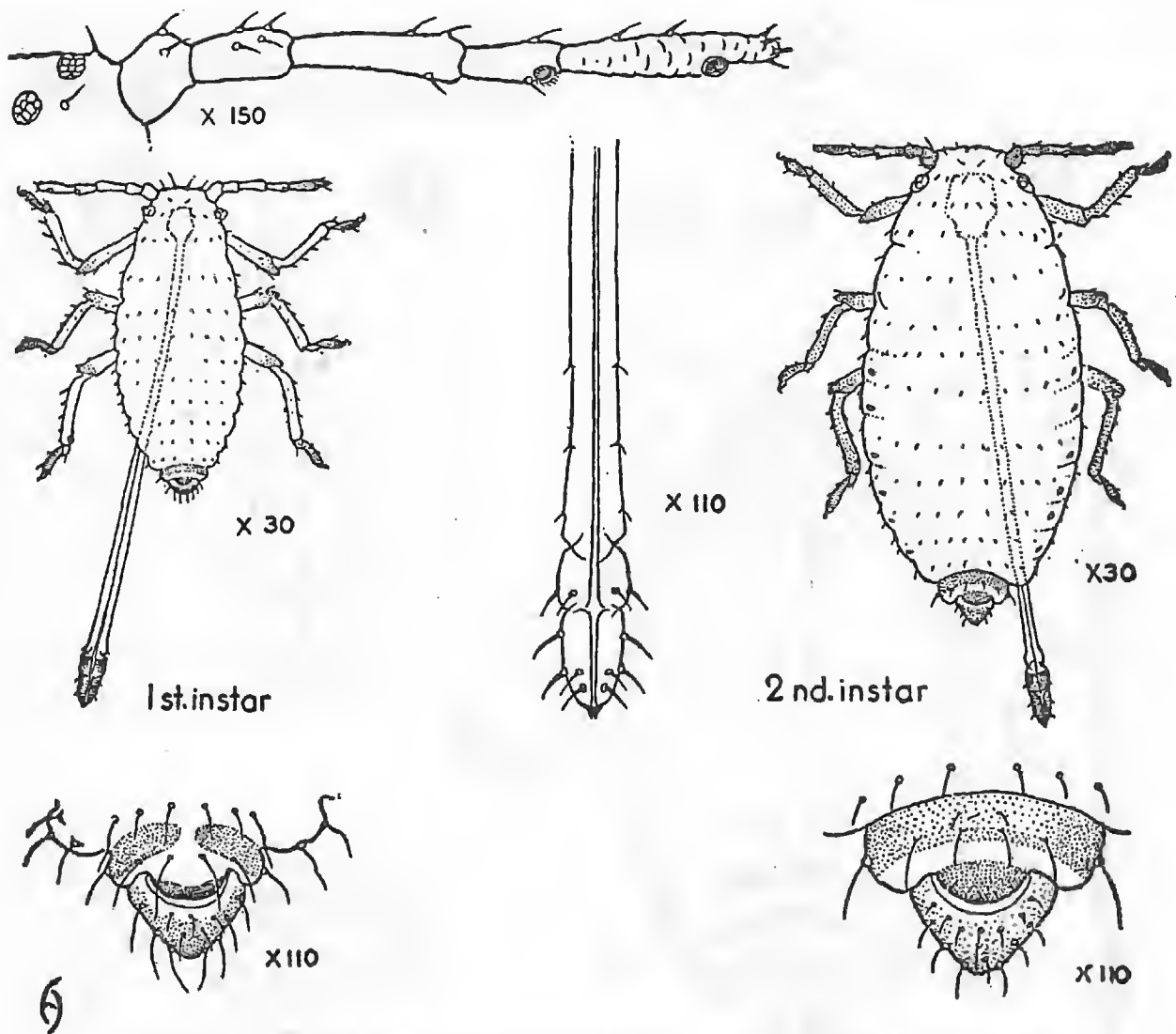


Fig. 2. *Aloephagus myersi* Essig, n. sp. Immature apterous forms. The extremely long rostrum grows but little after birth. (Drawing by Frieda Abernathy).

lector. On *Aloe variegata* (?), Inglewood, September 24, 1948, 6 specimens; A. D. Phelps, collector. On *Aloe* sp. Glendale, October 14, 1948, 3 specimens; W. D. Dyer, collector. An additional collection, July 19, 1949, on *Aloe africana*, Glendale, W. D. Dyer, numbering about 150 specimens on 13 slides received from L. E. Myers.

The entire collection numbering some 193 specimens, mounted mostly in diaphane on 32 slides is distributed as follows: type and 26 slides of paratypes, in author's collection; additional paratypes: 2 slides to State Department of Agriculture, Sacramento; 1 slide to the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; 1 slide to the office of Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner, Los Angeles; 1 slide to the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.; 1 slide to the British Museum of Natural History, London, England.